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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 383rd MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 9 June 1993, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. MUNTEANU (Romania)
(Vice-Chairman)

- General exchange of views (continued)
- Statement by the Chief of the Office for Outer Space Affairs
- Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes

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In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Munteanu, (Romania), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS (continued)

The CHAIRMAN: I call on the representative of Kazakhstan.

Mr. AUBAKIROV (Kazakhstan) (interpretation from Russian): Allow me to express my deep respect for the members of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS).

For the Republic of Kazakhstan, the questions being discussed at this session are both timely and of practical interest. In my view, the Committee is precisely the place that fully reflects the role of the United Nations in the priority matters of the use of outer space for peaceful purposes.

At the present time, the Republic of Kazakhstan is actively involved in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space. For the purpose of executing Government policy in the exploration and uses of outer space, the National Aerospace Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan was formed in February 1993. From the very first days of its existence, the Republic of Kazakhstan has worked for broad international cooperation in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space in order to gain the economic, scientific and technical usefulness of such cooperation for the benefit for our country.

In its space activities, the Republic of Kazakhstan is guided by the provisions of the agreement between the States Parties of the Commonwealth of Independent States on joint activities aimed at the exploration and uses of outer space, which was signed on 30 December 1991 in Minsk. It is also governed by the provisions of the agreement of 25 May 1992 between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation on the use of the Baikonur space centre.

(Mr. Aubakirov, Kazakhstan)

The National Aerospace Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan develops and executes a national space programme, coordinates basic and applied research in outer space topics and executes trade space-projects It also uses and applies to our economy the achievements of astronautics and organizes personnel training for Kazakhstan's commercial activities.

The Republic of Kazakhstan, which owns the Baikonur space centre, is seeking its appropriate place among the world's space Powers - a natural aspiration in the light of the understanding of the new realities facing our Republic. It is primarily governed by the main goal of effectively solving our socio-economic and scientific problems and also by the goal of serving the international interests of Kazakhstan as a space Power. Moreover, in its space activities, the Republic of Kazakhstan adheres to the following fundamental principles: the essentially peaceful nature of its work; the priorities to be given to environmental safety; the observance of international legal norms; the governmental nature of the most important work done; the development of trade activities; the expansion of international cooperation; and the establishment of an international space-port.

The policy of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the area of space activity at the present time is to preserve the Baikonur space centre and to maintain its scientific and technical potential and infrastructure. I must point out that the Republic of Kazakhstan is not locked into simply maintaining and developing existing ties with the States of the Commonwealth of Independent States, namely Russia and Ukraine. In the process of developing its space industry, the Republic intends to work together with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration of the United States (NASA)

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and the States members of the European Space Agency (ESA), as well as with other countries which may or may not have their own space technology.

The Baikonur space centre is responsible for all manned launches and the launches of the heavy satellites of all the Global Navigation Satellite System (GLONASS) navigational spacecraft, all geostationary spacecraft and more than one-third of the other kinds of launches carried out in the Commonwealth of Independent States. Moreover, all satellite systems built during the time of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics are kept in working condition, are backed up by new systems and are rebuilt using Baikonur's scientific and technical facilities.

The Baikonur space centre covers more than 46,000 square kilometres which has been set aside as an area where separated rocket-launcher stages and toxic substances can fall back to Earth. Baikonur is real estate and mobile movable property worth more than $[illegible]0 billion. Baikonur is a scientific and technical centre for assembling, testing, preparing and launching space rocket technology, a control and instrumentation centre for flight launching and monitoring and a system for real-time monitoring of orbital stations. It is also the city of Leninsk - the administrative centre of the space base with a population of more than 100,000 people.

(Mr. Aubakirov, Kazakhstan)

All of this means that the Baikonur space centre has not in the least lost its significance. It represents an achievement on the part of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

In our view, it is important to establish international and regional cooperation in developing modern technologies, in exchanging scientific information, in carrying out joint projects in the exploration of outer space and in applying space technology to ground, sea and air navigation communications systems by establishing joint ventures, corporations and holding companies.

Kazakhstan is interested in establishing its own new structures, namely, a centre for receiving and processing satellite information and a governmental remote-sensing network.

To carry out these projects in Kazakhstan, we have the relevant control and instrumentation sites and centres as well as real-time monitoring stations and service centres for ground observation of artificial Earth satellites.

At the present time, Kazakhstan is building a national centre for new technologies and space technologies by converting dual-use facilities at the Baikonur space centre. Here, the priority areas are metallurgy; a fuel and energy centre; machine-building; the production of consumer goods; and the medical and biological aspects of human activity in the conquest of space.

These priorities have been defined on the basis of the fact that first of all, the space sector has unique technologies and experience in material sciences, which are so necessary for metallurgy. This sector has a very fine basis for machine-building and for the production of consumer goods, which will make it possible to carry out interesting projects. For example, a project is under way at the Institute of Medical and Biological Research in

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the city of Leninsk for the establishment of a centre for preparing and producing plant medicines, baby food and vitamins.

In parallel with this, Kazakhstan is establishing a governmental programme for teaching and training staff not only to maintain and use the Baikonur space centre but also to solve priority tasks - mainly space communications, television and aircraft construction. Our colleagues from Ukraine and Russia are helping us in this endeavour.

All of the foregoing constitutes the basic components of the concept of space development in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

For more than 30 years, this ancient land of Kazakhstan has been launching spacecraft, including ones with international crews on board. On 2 October 1991, I, as the first representative of the Kazakh people, had the opportunity, along with a joint Kazakh-Soviet-Austrian space crew, to be launched into outer space from the Baikonur space centre.

As an individual who has been in space and who is genuinely aware of the fragility and vulnerability of Planet Earth in the surrounding vastness of space, I stand fully behind our Committee's activities in the exclusively peaceful uses of outer space for the benefit of scientific progress and human development.

I should like to take this opportunity to emphasize that Kazakhstan has deep respect for the activities of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) and commends the noble work of its members. The Government of Kazakhstan is deeply interested in participating in the work of COPUOS as a full-fledged member of the Committee.

We are convinced that the Republic of Kazakhstan, which possesses the biggest space centre in the world, can make a worthy contribution to the

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practical activities of COPUOS. As Director-General of the National Aerospace Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan, I invite all interested parties to broadly cooperate in mastering and using outer space for the benefit of humankind.

I take this opportunity to inform you that we have brought with us the statute of the National Aerospace Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Those who would like a copy of that document will find it on the table at the side of this room.

Also, representatives here can get a copy of the communiqué from the Institute of Space Research of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Kazakhstan regarding an international conference on the topic "Space-based and satellite monitoring of Kazakhstan". That conference will take place from 1 to 6 November 1993, in the city of Almaty. At the request of our Academy of Sciences, I invite all who are interested to participate.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call on the representative of Portugal.

Mr. GONCALVES HENRIQUES (Portugal): Mr. Chairman, on behalf of my delegation, allow me to begin by expressing my appreciation for your leadership of this session of the Committee.

Since 1970, when a Permanent Commission on Outer Space Studies was created in the National Board for Scientific and Technological Research, important efforts have increasingly been made towards the active participation of the Portuguese scientific and technological communities in specific areas of the peaceful uses of outer space.

Following the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE 82), Portugal's implementation of the priority recommendations of that Conference has focused mainly on the development of national capabilities and expertise in connection with the

(Mr. Gonçalves Henriques, Portugal)

exploration of remotely sensed data for various fields, including for environmental purposes.

In the late 1980s, the completion in just six months of the first Land Cover Map of Portugal, with 44 classes of land classification at the scale of 1:100,000, derived from satellite data - the first of the European countries to be mapped under the initiative of the European Community's General Directorate of the Environment within the Corine Programme - was a major achievement, not only because it proved that satellite data could be used in operational terms for the environmental assessment, at a medium scale, of the land cover of a European country, but also because it contributed to an integrated approach by various Portuguese scientific and technological groups, which since then have been collaborating in the operational use of satellite data.

Aware of the important role that Earth observation satellite imagery plays in the analysis, formulation and implementation of sustainable development strategies, Portugal is attaching the utmost importance to the promotion of international cooperation related to the use of satellite data, specifically oriented towards the needs of developing countries.

As a result of these developments, Portugal offers a set of programmes for education and training in areas such as meteorology, solid-Earth geophysics, oceanography, cartography and geodesy, in which students from Portuguese-speaking African countries have participated.

Three recent developments that have occurred in Portugal will have a major impact on our participation in the cooperation activities related to the peaceful uses of outer space:

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First, the decision of major Portuguese scientific and technical groups to establish a thematic network on remote-sensing data exploration, under the National Geographic Information System Network, that will greatly contribute to the promotion of the generalized use in Portugal of satellite data, namely for land-use cartographic production, natural-resources evaluation and environmental assessment;

Secondly, the approaching launch of PO-SAT-1, an experimental satellite that is contributing to the integration of the Portuguese scientific community into the development of mini-satellite technologies; and

Thirdly, the recently announced decision of the Portuguese Minister for Science and Technology to single out space research as one of the priority areas for the scientific programmes of research to be sponsored by the Ministry.

Such important events will greatly contribute to reinforcing the role of Portugal in the promotion and development of cooperation activities with developing countries related to the peaceful exploration of outer space.

STATEMENT BY THE CHIEF OF THE OFFICE FOR OUTER SPACE AFFAIRS

The CHAIRMAN: I now call on the Chief of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, who will give us a review of the work of the Office.

Mr. JASENTULIYANA (Chief of the Office for Outer Space Affairs): In response to requests by delegations at past sessions of the Committee, I should like to provide a brief review of the work of the Office for Outer Space Affairs over the past year and of the documents prepared by the Office for this session of the Committee.

The staff of the Office for Outer Space Affairs has undergone a few changes in the past year, in part as a result of the restructuring of the Secretariat. Mr. Obai Kabia, a national of Sierra Leone who has many years of experience with the United Nations, has recently been assigned to our Office to replace Mr. Gregor Boventer, who has been assigned to other functions within the Secretariat. This year, the Government of Austria has provided an Associate Expert to the Office, Mr. Christian Hoffmann, a specialist in remote sensing. And earlier this year, an Associate Expert from Japan, Mr. Yutaka Hishiyama, returned to Japan after a year with this Office. I should like to express our great appreciation to the Governments of Austria and Japan for their generous support, which enables us to provide better services to the Committee and to Member States. With these changes, the Office for Outer Space Affairs remains at the same strength as last year.

In response to the recommendations of the Committee, the Office is continuing to give priority to the activities of the Programme on Space Applications. In addition to the staff fully dedicated to the Programme, all other staff of our Office also support the Programme as required, and all of the non-staff financial resources available to the Office are devoted to the Programme on Space Applications, primarily for the participation of developing

(Mr. Jasentuliyana)

countries in Programme activities. I might note that the regular budget allocations for the Programme have remained at essentially the same level for the last several years.

Despite the very limited regular budget resources available, our Office has been able to maintain an effective Programme on Space Applications thanks to generous voluntary contributions. The regular budget resources have been used as seed money to obtain support from Member States, specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other international organizations. On average, the regular budget provides less than one third of the total costs of the training courses, seminars and workshops organized under the Programme, with the major part coming from host countries and other supporting countries and organizations. I should particularly like to note the generous support provided by the European Space Agency and the host countries that have provided local facilities, transportation and accommodation for Programme activities.

With regard to funding for the Programme, the Committee last year noted the view of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee that the budgetary allocations for the Programme for the implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE 82) had been meagre and inadequate and requested the General Assembly to make an adequate allocation for the Programme in order to fully implement the UNISPACE 82 recommendations. The Special Political Committee considered this request and asked its Chairman to bring it to the attention of the Fifth Committee. The Fifth Committee and the General Assembly noted the view of this Committee on the question. The matter, hopefully, will be taken up in the future in the consideration of budgetary allocations in the Fifth Committee.

(Mr. Jasentuliyana)

The reports on the 1992 activities of the Programme on Space Applications, along with information on the 1993 activities now being carried out, were submitted to and reviewed by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, as indicated in its report. The proposed activities for 1994 were reviewed by the Subcommittee and recommended for approval. Subject to the approval of this Committee and the General Assembly, planning for 1994 activities is now under way. The staff of the Office for Outer Space Affairs have made great efforts to ensure the effective and efficient organization of these activities, and I should like particularly to acknowledge the hard work that the Expert on Space Applications, Dr. Abiodun, has done in coordinating the programme. He will be providing more detailed information to the Committee on the activities of the Programme on Space Applications.

Following the recommendation of the Committee, one of the major efforts currently being undertaken by the Office in implementation of the UNISPACE 82 recommendations is to establish regional Centres for Space Science and Technology Education in developing countries. A report on those efforts was submitted to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in document A/AC.105/534, and further information will be provided by the Expert.

An important priority during the past year for the Office for Outer Space Affairs, and particularly for the Programme on Space Applications, was the participation of the United Nations in International Space Year. A review of the activities undertaken as part of United Nations participation in International Space Year was circulated in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in document A/AC.105/445/Add.9. At its 1992 session the General Assembly recommended in resolution 47/67 that the United Nations should actively encourage the continuation of activities initiated for International Space Year and promote broader involvement by more nations in

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those activities. We hope to continue our cooperation in the ongoing activities started during International Space Year, and, in particular, we hope to continue our cooperation with the Space Agency Forum, as well as with the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS). Our efforts in that direction, which will be in addition to our continuing activities, will depend largely on the voluntary contributions of Member States.

I would like to note that the Associate Expert provided by the Government of Japan as a voluntary contribution last year made an important contribution to our work on International Space Year, and the Associate Expert provided by the Government of Austria is working on the continuation of International Space Year activities.

Continuing our efforts on the International Space year theme of Mission to Planet Earth, the Office is working with other parts of the United Nations system in the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio last June, and notably the implementation of Agenda 21, which was adopted by the Conference. At the request of the Committee, we have carefully reviewed Agenda 21 and have prepared for the Committee an analytical report, found in document A/AC.105/547, on the role the Committee could play in carrying out the ambitious programme outlined in Agenda 21. In response to an invitation from the Committee and the Secretariat, a number of countries submitted their views on the question, and those views have been taken into account in preparing the report. We will be following closely the work of the United Nations system in implementing Agenda 21 and will be promoting the use of space technology to carry out that work efficiently.

(Mr. Jasentuliyana)

One area in which the Office for Outer Space Affairs has been working to provide additional services to Member States has been the International Space Information Service. The establishment of this service was recommended by the UNISPACE 82 Conference and decided in 1992 by General Assembly resolution 37/90. In view of the available resources, however, rather limited progress has been possible towards the implementation of the Service. The Office is now in the process of developing a modest computer-information-processing capability, with the objective of improving our ability to respond to requests for information from Member States.

As part of the work of the Office in developing the International Space Information Service and promoting the exchange of information on space activities, particularly activities relating to developing countries, we have published and distributed a number of documents relating to space applications for development.

(Mr. Jasentuliyana)

This year, for the fourth time, we published a collection (A/AC.105/532) of selected technical papers from the seminars, workshops and training courses of the Programme on Space Applications, selected primarily on the basis of their interest to developing countries. We will continue to publish such collections annually, and we hope that this series can make a significant contribution to meeting the need, identified by the UNISPACE 82 conference, for improvements in the exchange of information concerning space applications in and for developing countries.

As part of the International Space Information Service, and in response to a request from the Subcommittee's Working Group of the Whole at its 1992 session, the Office this year prepared and submitted to the Subcommittee two technical studies, one (A/AC.105/535) on the applications of space technology to ocean resources, prepared by Mr. Petr Lala, and one (A/AC.105/536) on space technology for remote and rural communications and broadcasting, prepared by Mr. Victor Kotelnikov. Additional technical studies, as proposed by the Working Group of the Whole at its 1993 session, are now under preparation. I also wish to acknowledge the support of Mr. Ralph Chipman and Mr. Bruce Schoenfeld, who edited those and some of the other documents before the Committee.

We have also published during the past year, as part of the International Space Information Service and as a contribution to International Space Year, a new edition of our periodic publication "Space Activities of the United Nations and International Organizations" (A/AC.105/521), which provides an overview of the organization and activities of all the agencies of the United Nations system as well as other international space organizations. We also published a new edition of the Directory of Information Systems on Space

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Science and Technology (A/AC.105/517), and will be issuing shortly a new edition of the Directory of Education, Training, Research and Fellowship Opportunities in Space Science, Technology and Applications.

I would also note that information on the space activities of Member States is contained in document A/AC.105/523, and that reports on international space activities, submitted in response to the request of the Committee, from the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the European Space Agency will be available for distribution during the session.

At the invitation of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) and the International Astronautical Federation (IAF), in cooperation with our Office, again organized a technical symposium on the special theme chosen by the Subcommittee: "Space-based Communication: The Expansion of Current Services and Increased Understanding of New Systems and the Services They Will Make Possible". In addition, a number of Member States arranged special presentations on the special theme or on other agenda items. Recognizing that those presentations contained much interesting and valuable information on the latest developments in space applications of interest to the international community, the Office has again this year prepared a summary (A/AC.105/546) of those presentations for distribution to the Committee. I would like to acknowledge the work of Mr. Lala, Mr. Chipman and Mr. Schoenfeld in preparing this report.

I would like to take this opportunity to express our Office's appreciation of the great efforts made by COSPAR and IAF to organize that symposium and in other ways to support the work of the Committee and the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

(Mr. Jasentuliyana)

If any delegations wish to make special presentations during this session of the Committee, I would ask them to consult with the Secretariat concerning scheduling of the presentations and any audio-visual equipment that may be required. As usual, these presentations will take place following completion of the list of speakers for the meeting.

I would like to mention briefly our Office's cooperation with other international and regional organizations. The coordination of space activities within the United Nations system is carried out through the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities. That meeting serves for the exchange of information on planned space-related activities in order to prevent redundant or conflicting activities and for the planning of joint and complementary activities. The 1992 session of the Meeting took place in Paris at the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and the review of the activities to be undertaken by the organizations of the United Nations system for 1993, 1994 and future years was submitted to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in document A/AC.105/524. The 1993 Inter-Agency Meeting is planned for October and will be hosted by the ITU in Geneva.

The Office for Outer Space Affairs has had particularly close cooperation with COSPAR and IAF. Again this year, COSPAR has submitted its annual report on progress in space research, and IAF its report on highlights in space technology and applications. These reports were prepared with the assistance of many international experts and constitute authoritative and up-to-date reviews of the most important developments in the field. In view of their importance, they were combined into a single publication (A/AC.105/522) for wider distribution.

(Mr. Jasentuliyana)

I would also mention that the annual Congresses of the IAF and the biennial meetings of COSPAR include activities organized in cooperation with the United Nations on topics of particular interest to developing countries. In conjunction with the 1992 World Space Congress, jointly organized by COSPAR and IAF in Washington in August-September 1992, the United Nations, in cooperation with the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, organized a workshop for developing countries on "Space Technology in Developing Countries: Making it Happen". The United Nations, in cooperation with COSPAR and the IAF Committee for Liaison with International Organizations and Developing Nations, arranged a number of speakers from developing countries in some of the sessions of the Congress. For the 1993 IAF Congress, to be held in Graz, Austria, the Office for Outer Space Affairs is working with the Government of Austria in planning a symposium for the benefit of developing countries. I would like to express our Office's appreciation for the support provided, particularly by the European Space Agency, the European Community, the Austrian space agency and the Austrian Government.

During the past year, the Office for Outer Space Affairs has again enjoyed generous support from the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (INTELSAT), the International Maritime Satellite Organization (INMARSAT) and in particular the European Space Agency, which has given substantial financial and technical assistance for the activities of the space applications Programme. I would like to express the appreciation of our Office for their support.

Within the United Nations Secretariat our Office worked with the Science, Technology, Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Division of the Department of Economic and Social Development in planning a Conference on

(Mr. Jasentuliyana)

Technology Assessment in Aerospace Conversion for Development, held in Moscow in October 1992.

In the area of regional cooperation, the Office assisted the Government of Chile in organizing the Second Space Conference of the Americas, held in Santiago in April this year.

Concerning the conference services for this session of the Committee, I would remind delegates that the work of the interpreters will be greatly facilitated if delegations can provide the texts of statements to the conference officer as long in advance of the statements as possible.

Finally, I would like to inform the Committee that the General Assembly last month adopted resolution 47/212 B, approving the Secretary-General's proposal for the restructuring of the Secretariat, including the relocation of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, with its multisectoral programme of political, legal, technological and technical assistance activities, to the United Nations Office at Vienna. As a result of that restructuring, the Office will be responsible for providing meeting services for the Committee, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, the Legal Subcommittee and their subsidiary bodies. Therefore, in accordance with the Headquarters rule established by the General Assembly, the Committee, the Aubcommittees and their subsidiary bodies will meet in Vienna unless the General Assembly decides to make an exception. We have been informed that the conference servicing requirements for the Committee and its subsidiary bodies can be met from existing resources of the regular budget for conference services in Vienna. If an exception is made to the Headquarters rule, there will be additional costs for Secretariat travel and per diem.

(Mr. Jasentuliyana)

No date has yet been set for the relocation to Vienna, but it is anticipated that it will take place in the next several months, before the end of the year. While the relocation will inevitably disrupt temporarily our contacts with Missions and our schedule of work, we will make every effort to make the transition as smooth as possible and to maintain our contacts with our colleagues and friends who remain in New York.

This has been a brief review of the work of the Office for Outer Space Affairs over the past year. As always, the staff of our Office stand ready to assist in the work of the Committee and its member delegations in any way we can to promote international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

The CHAIRMAN: I wish to acknowledge the excellent performance of the Secretary of the Committee, Mr. Jasentuliyana, of the Expert on Space Applications, Mr. Abiodun, and of the entire Office for Outer Space Affairs. The Committee is very well aware of their outstanding work.

We have thus concluded our consideration of agenda item 3, "General exchange of views".

WAYS AND MEANS OF MAINTAINING OUTER SPACE FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES

Mr. VISWANATHAN (India): Our delegation has always considered that making speedier progress on exploring and establishing ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes is of great importance. The peaceful uses of outer space are very important for mankind as a whole; they are indispensable tools for making rapid progress. Many developing countries hope to be able to depend on them as a means of rapid development and of helping solve many of their gigantic problems. Hence, maintaining outer space so that it is easily accessible for peaceful purposes is the primary duty

(Mr. Viswanathan, India)

of all States and of the international community. Further, it is necessary to ensure that as the activities of the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space progress future entrants are not unduly burdened. This implies that activities such as those that result in the crowding of certain orbits and the generation of debris need to be regulated and that adequate compensation should be available to other States that are and are going to be affected.

Maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes is also a primary duty of this Committee, as it directly relates to its purposes. In the past, a number of States have in this regard suggested several ways and means in the Committee. Broadly speaking, these include efforts to increase international cooperation and to remove impediments. Our delegation recognizes that efforts in these directions should continue while more intensive progress is attempted in areas where we have common understanding. Measures for strengthening international cooperation in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space on the one hand, and the further development of an international legal basis for the pursuit and promotion of such cooperation on the other hand, need serious consideration.

Exploring ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes also implies that we must look at methods for coping with the growth and diversification of peaceful uses. Our delegation has already begun working or debating on various factors that govern the sustainability of the increase in outer space activities. Examples include work on the use of nuclear power sources in outer space and the maintenance of the space environment. Speedy progress on these subjects is necessary.

(Mr. Viswanathan, India)

In the opinion of our delegation, the Committee should also consider approaches to encourage the removal of impediments to maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes. The spread of the arms race into outer space is one such grave impediment. In that context, there have been suggestions that the Committee should play a role in various transparency and confidence-building measures. The role of the Committee in such measures could be examined, taking into account past roles played by the Committee.

We share the concern of many other delegations that urgent progress is necessary on this item.

Mr. ZAMAN (Pakistan): The agenda item "Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes" - or put in another way the "weaponization" of outer space in one form or the other - has been under discussion in this Committee for more than a decade. Owing to its significance and its repercussions on the future developments of space technology, it was also discussed during the second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE 82). I quote from the report of that Conference:

> "The maintenance of peace and security in outer space is of great importance for international peace and security. The prevention of an arms race and hostilities in outer space is an essential condition for the promotion and continuation of international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes. In this regard, the Conference urges all States to adhere to the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies and strictly to observe its letter and spirit." (A/CONF.101/10, para. 14)

(Mr. Zaman, Pakistan)

However, despite the long debates on this item year after year, there has hardly been any forward movement in our Committee. This situation prevails, perhaps, because the discussions are open-ended, in the absence of clear-cut terms of reference on which the debate could be centred. My delegation considers that merely holding discussions is not enough; rather these should lead to tangible conclusions in the form of control of activities directed towards the "weaponization" of outer space.

Recognizing the relevance that space has gained as an important factor for the socio-economic development of many States, in addition to its undeniable role in security issues, the General Assembly, in paragraph 3 of resolution 45/55 B of 4 December 1990, requested the Secretary-General

> "to carry out, with the assistance of government experts, a study on the specific aspects related to the application of different confidence-building measures in outer space, including the different technologies available, possibilities for defining appropriate mechanisms of international cooperation in specific areas of interest and so on, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session."

That resolution was adopted with the thumping majority of 149 votes in favour and none against, which shows how much concern the world has about this burning issue.

Accordingly, a study group of government experts was constituted for the purpose, and we hope it will be finalizing its study and recommendations at its fourth session, to be held in July 1993. My delegation anticipates that the group will make solid recommendations from which COPUOS could benefit in order to play its proper role and fulfil its mandate on the subject. There

(Mr. Zaman, Pakistan)

is no doubt that the cornerstone of allaying apprehensions about the crucial question of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes only is confidence-building among States; this can be achieved only through extensive international cooperation in the fields of space science and technology. Questions relating to the "weaponization" of outer space fall in the scientific, technical, legal and political domains; we will have to work earnestly in all those domains to achieve the much desired results.

Mr. DAMICO (Brazil): My delegation is pleased to see Ambassador Hohenfellner presiding over this session, and we take this opportunity to thank Mr. Jasentuliyana for his very useful presentation.

In keeping with a long-standing agreement between Member States, resolution 47/67 requested the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) to consider, as a matter of priority, ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.

The rationale behind this request is hardly disputed, since it reflects the awareness that peace, being an integral and interrelated process, is indivisible. Indeed, one of the predicaments of peace on Earth is the maintenance of peace in outer space.

In this respect, the end of the cold war has brought about a new international political atmosphere and increased the prospects for enhancing cooperation and dialogue between the two super-Powers, which are, incidentally, the major space Powers. We look forward to seeing steps taken to enlarge this bilateral dialogue and cooperation towards a broader multilateral context.

It is a well-known position of my delegation that the prevention of an arms race in outer space is inherently linked to maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes. As a corollary to this assumption, the bodies entrusted to address those questions, namely the Conference on Disarmament and COPUOS, should undertake a cross-fertilization of efforts. This endeavour should not be construed as a source for potential duplication, but rather as a constructive process of coordination and dialogue.

(Mr. Damico, Brazil)

Many delegations do not favour this approach on the grounds that disarmament issues are not within the purview of COPUOS. However, the well-advanced deliberations of the Working Group on the Revitalization of the Role of the General Assembly point to the transfer of the item on the peaceful uses of outer space to the First Committee. It is our view that, by bringing back the issue of the maintenance of peace in outer space to the Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with questions of security and disarmament, we will be acknowledging their intimate relationship. We hope that this step will be fully taken into account by the Committee and that it will facilitate the format of the future dialogue between the Conference on Disarmament and COPUOS on these important matters.

The concept of peace, as it is currently understood, goes far beyond military aspects, as it embodies a whole range of economic and social aspects. This is clearly recognized by the thought-provoking report of the Secretary-General, "An Agenda for Peace" (A/47/277), in which economic and social development is listed as a prerequisite for sustainable peace and security. As the promotion of development among countries on Earth requires indigenous efforts and external cooperation, similarly in outer space, indigenous efforts of developing countries should be coupled with the furtherance of the diffusion of space benefits and knowledge. This transfer of technology constitutes one of the most important aspects of the process of promoting the maintenance of outer space for peaceful purposes.

At this stage, we would like to make clear that we are not pledging unilateral transfer of technologies or of access by importing countries without adequate compensation to supplying countries. On the contrary, we seek to consider ways and means to promote fair, equitable and mutually acceptable terms between supplying and importing countries.

(Mr. Damico, Brazil)

To that end, as I stated yesterday in the general exchange of views, the sponsors of working document A/AC.105/L.182 have prepared a revised version of the document, incorporating comments made during the thirty-first session of the Legal Subcommittee. During the Subcommittee's thirty-second session, too, the revised version of document L.182 was the object of constructive comments in a very intense and detailed exchange of views. We feel that there are grounds for future improvement of the working document with a view to accommodating some of the legitimate concerns expressed by delegations during the debate. We are confident that the constructive dialogue undertaken in the Legal Subcommittee will eventually lead to positive results favouring the spread of space benefits tc ever-widening circles of mankind.

As the positive prospects for the reduction of the arms race become clear, we should strive to see ensure efforts to maintain outer space for peaceful purposes go hand-.n-hand with these positive developments so that the political will of the international community to control the arms race may be translated into concrete steps for the furtherance of space cooperation.

The meeting rose at 4.15 p.m.